

REMARKS

This Response is offered in reply to the office action of November 14, 2003.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate allowance of claims 19-26, 28-31, and 33-35.

Applicants have amended page 12 of the specification to include the terminology "manifold wall" which appears in the claims, thus merely conforming the claims and the specification, and to correct a typographical error.

On page 2 of the office action, claims 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Christin et al. US patent 5 904 957.

Applicants have amended claims 36 and 37 to better explain the invention and believe pending claims 36 and 37 distinguish over the Christin patent.

In particular, with respect to claim 36, the Christin patent does not disclose a method of chemical vapor deposition comprising flowing coating gas in a gas distribution conduit in the coating chamber, discharging the coating gas laterally from the gas distribution conduit to a manifold located laterally between the gas distribution conduit and a coating zone and having gas flow openings communicated to the coating zone, and exhausting spent coating gas from the coating zone through openings in a baffle located laterally outwardly of the coating zone. For example, such features of claim 36 are apparent from the specification and are illustrated in Applicants' Figure 2.

With respect to claim 37, the Christin patent does not disclose a method of chemical vapor deposition comprising flowing coating gas in a gas distribution conduit in a heated coating chamber and discharging the coating gas from the gas distribution conduit laterally through gas discharge openings at an opposing manifold wall of a manifold disposed laterally between a coating zone and the gas distribution conduit and flowing the coating gas

through a plurality of gas flow openings disposed in the manifold wall to the coating zone with the gas flow openings being out of alignment with the gas discharge openings such that there is no line-of-sight gas flow path from the gas discharge openings to said gas flow openings at the coating zone. Such features of claim 37 are apparent from the specification and are illustrated in Applicants' Figure 2.

In contrast to claims 36 and 37, the Christin patent discloses gas inlets 16, preheating plates 20, diffuser plate 22, workpieces 12 and radiation shield 26 arranged in a manner that does not provide Applicants' claimed features.

Reconsideration of the Section 102 rejection of claims 36 and 37 is requested.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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enclosure: Postal card

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 9, 2004.



Edward J. Timmer